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# THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORMAN CROSS.

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1925.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1925.

The Norman Cross Rural District consists of 16 Parishes situated in the North-West portion of Huntingdonshire. The population (estimated as at June 30th, 1925) is 5,645, and the area of the district is 29,609 acres. The population is almost half accounted for by the large villages of Farcet and Yaxley; other centres of population are scattered villages of various sizes, and there are several outlying farms and small holdings distributed over the Huntingdonshire Fens.

A large portion of the district is situated on that extensive deposit of Oxford clay which forms the great Fletton Brickfields and many of the inhabitants thus find employment in that industry, but with this exception the district is entirely agricultural. The fen land which comprises the South-Western portion of the district is situated on the site of the former Whittlesea Mere, drained over half-a-century ago by a system of dykes and pumping stations into the river Nene some three or four miles distant. Much of this land being below sea level, great care of the banks of the drains is required to prevent reflooding. The drainage of the whole district ultimately joins, by numerous brooks and drains, the river Nene, the Northern parishes of the district lying on its South Bank to the West of the City of Peterborough. The Great North Road runs through the District from South (Holme) to North (Water Newton). The London and North-Eastern main line passes through its Eastern side.

**WATER.**—With the exception of the village of Orton Longueville, which is supplied by mains from Peterborough, the District is supplied by subsoil wells of various depths (12ft. to 30ft.). No shortage has been experienced during 1925.

**SEWERAGE.**—The villages of Holme and Farcet have filter beds of coke breeze, after passing which the sewage passes by dykes and brooks to the river Nene. Most of the villages being many miles from the river, there is very little pollution, if any, of the stream from the District.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**—Most of the houses have privy middens, which are gradually being converted into pail closets. No new houses are allowed to erect the former. A few houses have water closets supplied by their own water system.

**SCAVENGING.**—There is no public scavenging in the District; the night soil and house refuse are usually carried on to the land by the farmers and small-holders.

**SANITARY INSPECTION.**—The Sanitary Inspector's report dealing with the matter is appended.

**PREMISES and OCCUPATION** which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations:—

Common Lodging Houses	-	-	-	Bye-laws, June 2nd, 1911.
Cow-sheds, Dairies and Milk-sheds	-	-	-	Regulations, June 12th, 1909.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

**SCHOOLS.**—These are inspected. The following closures were ordered by the School Medical Officer during the year:—

Yaxley C. of E. Infants	...	From Jan. 20th to Feb. 10th	...	Coughs and Colds.
Farcet C. Infants	...	From Feb. 23rd to March 17th	...	Influenza and Chicken-pox.
Farcet C. of E. Mixed	...	From Feb. 24th to March 10th	...	Influenza Colds.
Yaxley C. of E. Infants	...	From June 11th to June 30th	...	Diphtheria.
Farcet C. Infants	...	From June 24th to July 21st	...	Measles.
Farcet C. of E. Mixed	...	From July 6th to July 21st	...	Measles.
Stilton C. of E. Mixed	...	From Oct. 14th to Nov. 24th	...	Measles.
Orton Waterville C.E. Mxd.	...	From Nov. 30th to Dec. 31st	...	Scarlet Fever.

**FOOD.**—Milk Supply:—This is usually plentiful. The Cowsheds and Dairies are inspected and are in a satisfactory condition.

**MILK (Mothers and Children) ORDER, 1918.**—No action.

**OTHER FOODS.**—The Bake-houses and Slaughter-houses are inspected and are in good order.

# PREVALENCE OF and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.**—Pneumonia, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria have been the chief diseases notified. Apart from these, there has been very little notifiable Infectious Disease. Two cases of Erysipelas occurred in the District. There has been no Typhoid or Smallpox. Measles, not now notifiable, was epidemic at Farcet during June and July, and at Stilton during October and November. Tuberculosis is dealt with in a subsequent paragraph. Prompt notification is usual, instructions are given to prevent spreading, disinfectants are supplied, and on removal or conclusion of the case the house is disinfected by Formalin Gas or Sulphur Dioxide.

The following is a summary of all cases of Infectious Diseases reported during the year:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	7	Diphtheria	...	...	14
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	6	Puerperal Fever	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	19
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	2

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—There is always a considerable amount of respiratory Tuberculosis and a few new cases have been notified during the year. The County Authorities have absorbed the duty of looking after and providing for cases. Cases which accept Sanatorium treatment are usually much improved, but often relapse or become chronic cases and as such no doubt tend to spread the disease. In view of the fact that Sanatorium cases make better progress and are less dangerous to the community, it is difficult to understand the obstinate attitude towards removal so often encountered.

**VENEREAL DISEASE.**—The County Authority have arranged for this class of case at Peterborough Infirmary and Addenbrook's Hospital, Cambridge.

**MATERNITY and CHILD WELFARE.**—The inspection and control of Midwives and the Maternity and Child Welfare work are carried out by the County M.O.H. The Nurses of the various village Nursing Associations usually work under the County Authority in their district.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1. Staff. One part-time M.O.H. and one part-time Inspector, who has one labourer as assistant.
2. Arrangements are made with Peterborough Corporation to take any cases into the Infectious Hospital.
3. Bye-laws for Common Lodging Houses.  
" " New Streets and Buildings (P.H. Act, 1875).

### HOUSING.

- I. & II. The position is unchanged. Overcrowding still tends to increase in the villages of Yaxley and Farcet more particularly. No important changes have occurred during the year.
- III. **Fitness of Houses:**—Some are out of repair, but there are very few which might be condemned.
- IV. **Unhealthy Areas:**—None in district.
- V. No Bye-laws as to houses let in lodgings, or tents, vans, etc.
- VI. See Inspector's Report attached.
- VII. **Statistics for twelve months ended 31st December, 1925.**
  - (1) Complaints received as to houses unfit for occupation—Nil.
  - (2) Number of houses inspected—27.  
Number of houses unfit—Nil.  
Number of houses rendered fit—Nil.
  - (3) Nil.
  - (4) Nil.
  - (5) Nil.
  - (6) Nil.
  - (7) Nil.
  - (8) Nil.

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

### Statistics.

#### 1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

##### I.—Inspection.

- (1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 247
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations, 1910 ... 247
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses which were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those under paragraph 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... Nil.

##### II.—Action under Statutory Powers.

###### A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919.*

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:—
  - (a) By Owners ... Nil.
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close ... Nil.

*B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied:—

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

*C. Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with the view to making Closing Orders	...	...	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	Nil.

**UNHEALTHY AREAS.**

1. For General Inspection.
2. There are no unhealthy areas in the District.
3. Staff engaged on housing work.

**VITAL STATISTICS.**

	1925.			1924.			1923.		
	No.	M.	F.	No.	M.	F.	No.	M.	F.
<b>BIRTH RATE.</b> —Number of Births	102	54	48	99	58	41	101	57	44
Legitimate	96	54	42	95	54	41	93	51	42
Illegitimate	6	—	6	4	4	—	8	6	2
	June 30, 1925.			June 30, 1924.			June 30, 1923.		
Population	5,645			5,632			5,562		
Birth Rate for District	18.07			17.6			18.1		
Birth Rate (per 1,000), England and Wales	18.3			18.8			19.7		
	1925.			1924.			1923.		
	No.	M.	F.	No.	M.	F.	No.	M.	F.
<b>DEATH RATE.</b> —Number of Deaths	59	24	35	75	36	39	64	38	26
Population	5,645			5,632			5,562		
Death Rate for District	10.4			13.3			11.5		
Death Rate (per 1,000), England and Wales	12.2			12.2			11.6		

**CAUSES OF DEATH.**

Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	3	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	1
Tuberculosis, Lungs	...	...	...	1	Heart Disease	...	12	Congenital Debility	...	1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	...	2	Arterio-Sclerosis	...	3	Other Deaths from violence	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	11	Bronchitis	...	8	Other Defined Diseases	...	10
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	1	Pneumonia	...	2	Causes ill-known	...	1

**INFANT MORTALITY.**

Total Deaths of Infants under one year:—

	1925.			1924.			1923.		
	No.	M.	F.	No.	M.	F.	No.	M.	F.
	3	1	2	5	3	2	6	5	1
Illegitimate	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	1
	1925.			1924.			1923.		
Number of Births	102			99			101		
Infantile Mortality of District	30			50			59		
Infantile Mortality of England and Wales	75			75			69		

Appended is the Report of the Sanitary and Housing Inspector.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours faithfully,

**D. A. ASHTON,**

M.B., B.Ch. (Vict.),

Medical Officer.

Yaxley.

26th April, 1926.



Surveyor's Office,  
Old Fletton.  
26th April, 1926.

To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.  
Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to hand you a report upon the Sanitary Work of the District for the year ending December, 1925.

Twenty-five notices were served with respect to nuisances, viz.:—

	Informal 21.	Statutory 4.	
As to defective drains and traps	...	...	15
" " privies	...	...	9
" offensive accumulations	...	...	1
			<hr/> 25

**SEWERS AND DYKES.**—The sewers and cesspools under the control of the Council have been cleansed periodically and are in good order.

**DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**—All have been inspected and no notices as to defects were necessary and the supply of milk appears adequate.

**SLAUGHTERHOUSES.**—All Slaughterhouses in the District were inspected and notices were served where defects existed and the same put in order before registration.

**BAKEHOUSES.**—All Bakehouses were inspected and are in satisfactory order.

**HOUSING.**—Inspections were made throughout the district; no notices were necessary. A few cases of overcrowding are gradually being met by the erection of houses in different parts of the District. Six subsidy houses were built by private enterprise.

**DISINFECTION.**—Cases of infectious disease reported by the M.O.H. were given disinfectants, inspected and the premises disinfected after.

Your obedient servant,

**H. W. HAWKINS,**  
Sanitary Inspector.